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interprets, so that even in regard to the moral appreciation of art, where Green at times trod uncertainly, the memoir gives a definite analysis, and one true to Green's best spirit. I do not know where one could look for a worthier portrayal of the philosopher's life and mind, nor for a simpler statement of the central position of idealism, than in this short biography.

B. BOSANQUET.

ST. ANDREWS.

THE NEMESIS OF NATIONS. *Studies in History*. By W. Romaine Paterson. The Ancient World. London: J. M. Dent & Co., 1907. Pp. x, 338.

Is the course of history just? Does retribution fall on a nation in proportion to its moral guilt? Such questions are of the utmost interest both for the historian and the ethical student, and Mr. Paterson's book is a bold attempt to answer them. The gist of that answer would seem to be that no state founded on oppression and slavery can permanently endure. The social wrong brings about an internal weakness which, sooner or later, hands the nation over as a prey to invaders. This has been shown four times over in the ancient world; by Hindustan, fast-bound in her iron system of caste, falling at the first Mohammedan attack; by Babylon, drunk with the luxury and tyranny that made her a by-word among the peoples; by Greece, with her brilliant, short-lived culture for the few, based on the servile toil of the many; by Rome, with her world-dominion undermined through the corruption that came of irresponsible wealth. Doubtless there is a great deal of truth in this picture, and in any case it is refreshing to meet a book that attacks the really interesting questions in history and attempts to answer them in the only possible way, the way of bold generalization and imaginative reconstruction. This is really no more arrogant than the attempt to restate accurately and entirely the events of the vanished past, and it is certainly infinitely more suggestive.

After saying this much it may seem both ungracious and inconsistent to add that Mr. Paterson's book is on the whole too audacious. He admits the complexity of the subject, and yet practically he writes as though the fall of his four great empires could be explained by the same simple causes acting in the

same simple way. But compare Athens and Rome: Rome was at least as grasping and far more illiberal and cruel; there is enough proof of that in the laws for debt and the long, bitter struggle between patrician and plebeian, enough in the custom of crucifixion and the passion for the gladiatorial games. Greece, even in her decline, always turned with horror from such barbarities. Yet Rome endured for centuries, and the glory of Athens was as "a flash of lightning." The same problem meets us when we compare the Greeks with the great Semitic empires of Assyria and Babylonia. Hard as it is to be sure of our ground in those dark ages, one thing at least is clear, if only from the testimony of the sculptured slabs: that for humanity and gentleness the Greek was to the Assyrian as a man to a wild beast.

Yet Assyrian and Babylonian lasted long enough. On the other hand, it is strange that Mr. Paterson should seek to minimize the evidence for a comparatively liberal treatment of the slaves that is to be found in the Babylonian records. The fact of such treatment, if it is a fact, taken in conjunction with the length of Babylonian rule, would be an argument on his side. His book is full of interesting facts, references, and theories, especially with regard to imperial Rome, where his ground is firmest. The criticism on it amounts to the question whether he has not given too little weight to those other factors which make for a nation's growth and decay, and which are not moral in the narrower sense of the word. Vigor does not always imply other goodness, nor other goodness vigor; ruthlessness and rapacity, as many pitiless wars have shown, do possess elements of success; there have been martyred nations as well as martyred individuals, and the reward they gain is not always the reward of this world.

F. MELIAN STAWELL.

LONDON.

THE EVOLUTION OF MODERN CAPITALISM: A Study of Machine Production. By John A. Hobson. Walter Scott Publishing Co., 1906. Pp. xv, 450. New and Revised Edition.

"The Evolution of Modern Capitalism" has won for itself a wide circle of readers, and all will welcome this new and enlarged edition, which is considerably more exhaustive than the